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IN THE CLAIMS:

The status and content of each claim follows.

1-31. (cancelled)

32. (previously presented) A protective cover for a pin connector of a backplane, said cover comprising:

at least one connector having receptacles for receiving pins of a pin connector of a backplane, wherein said receptacles are not electrically connected to a circuit board or circuit elements;

a planar member extending from said at least one connector, said at least one connector being on said planar member; and

a plate attached to said planar member at an edge opposite said at least one connector.

33. (previously presented) The protective cover of claim 32, wherein said planar member is sufficiently sized to divide and separate blades installed on said backplane in a rack of a blade server.

34. (previously presented) The protective cover of claim 32, wherein said at least one connector further comprises a plurality of connectors attached along an edge of said planar member.

35. (previously presented) The protective cover of claim 32, wherein said at least one connector and said planar member are integrally formed.

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36. (previously presented) The protective cover of claim 32, wherein said receptacles are arranged in conformance with the Compact Peripheral Component Interconnect standard.

37. (previously presented) A protective cover for a pin connector of a backplane, said cover comprising:

at least one connector having receptacles for receiving pins of a pin connector of a backplane, wherein said receptacles are not electrically connected to a circuit board or circuit elements;

a handle extending from said at least one connector for installing or removing said protective cover; and

clips extending from said cover for clipping said cover to said pin connector of a backplane.

38. (currently amended) A protective cover for a pin connector of a backplane, said cover comprising:

at least one connector having receptacles for receiving pins of a pin connector of a backplane, wherein said receptacles are not electrically connected to a circuit board or circuit elements;

a handle extending from said at least one connector for installing or removing said protective cover; and

clips extending from said cover for clipping said cover to said pin connector of a backplane;

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~~The cover of claim 37~~, wherein said at least one connector comprises a plurality of connectors attached to a plate which is attached to said handle.

39. (previously presented) The cover of claim 38, wherein said handle extends substantially perpendicular to said plate.

40. (previously presented) The cover of claim 37, wherein said receptacles are arranged in conformance with the Compact Peripheral Component Interconnect standard.

41-44. (cancelled)

45. (previously presented) A protective cover for a pin connector of a backplane, said cover comprising:

at least one connector having receptacles for receiving pins of a pin connector of a backplane, wherein said receptacles are not electrically connected to a circuit board or circuit elements; and

a planar member extending from said at least one connector.

46. (previously presented) The protective cover of claim 45, wherein said planar member is sufficiently sized to divide and separate blades installed on said backplane in a rack of a blade server.

47. (currently amended) A protective cover for a pin connector of a backplane, said cover comprising:

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at least one connector having receptacles for receiving pins of a pin connector of a backplane, wherein said receptacles are not electrically connected to a circuit board or circuit elements; and

a planar member extending from said at least one connector;

~~The protective cover of claim 45,~~ wherein said at least one connector further comprises a plurality of connectors attached along an edge of said planar member.

48. (previously presented) The protective cover of claim 45, wherein said at least one connector and said planar member are integrally formed.

49. (previously presented) The protective cover of claim 45, wherein said receptacles are arranged in conformance with the Compact Peripheral Component Interconnect standard.